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## SPUR PROGRAM TO DECONTAMINATE RIVERS

The condition of rivers throughout the country is very dangerous, especially in industrial regions where harmful or even poisonous chemicals from factories drain into the rivers.

In 1948, the Inter-Wojewodztwo Committee for the Protection of Rivers from Pollution was organized. Thus far, the work of the committee has been ineffective because of the lack of permanent supervisory authority and support from the ministries concerned, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Public Administration. A basic reorganization is slated to take place in 1950.

At a plenary meeting of the committee held 14 February, reports on the activities of scientific research centers were made by Professor Litynski of Krakow and Professor Joszt of Katowice. The centers are in charge of research to determine the extent of pollution resulting from impurities draining into the rivers from factories. In large industrial centers, such as Gorny Slask, the impurities found in the water are deadly. The pollution is attributed to the failure of factory filters.

The centers also held conferences with the proper Czechoslovak authorities to arrange an exchange of research findings and decontamination methods. A report of the proposed reorganization and of plans for 1950 were submitted by Dr Zzarnecki. Organization of an inter-ministerial commission to direct the program and to act as liaison agency between official authorities and the areas concerned was one of the important items on the agenda. The plan has two basic problems: supervision of the factories, and systematic examination of the rivers from source to mouth.

The expenditures of the proposed budget for this will amount to 14 million zlotys and the income to 3,137,000 zlotys.

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